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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, shepherd of our Nation and world, hear our prayer. Lord, we turn to You because You are an intervening God who has asked us to pray without ceasing. We sometimes have difficulty comprehending the effectiveness of prayer, but we trust Your precepts and honor Your commands.

Lord, empower our lawmakers as You use them for Your glory. May they strive to keep themselves pure and to turn away from sin, as You show them Your ways and teach them Your wisdom. Give them the wisdom to meditate upon Your mighty acts in the history of our Nation and world. Lord, encourage them to trust You with their future.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

JOSEPH WOODROW HATCHETT
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
AND FEDERAL BUILDING—Resumed

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message with respect to S. 2938, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany S. 2938, a bill to designate the United States Courthouse and Federal Building located at 111 North Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, as the "Joseph Woodrow Hatchett United States Courthouse and Federal Building", and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with Schumer (for Murphy) amendment No. 5099 (to the House amendment), relating to the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

Schumer amendment No. 5100 (to amendment No. 5099), to add an effective date.

Schumer motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with instructions, Schumer amendment No. 5101, to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 5102 (to the instructions (amendment No. 5101) of the motion to refer), to modify the effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 5103 (to amendment No. 5102), to modify the effective date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Judiciary Committee being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Judiciary Committee from further consideration of Arianna J. Freeman, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the issue of our actions last night, yesterday, Democratic and Republican negotiators at long last released what the Nation has been waiting for for a very long time—a gun safety bill that can be described with three words: common sense, bipartisan, lifesaving.

As the author of the Brady background checks bill—the last major gun safety bill, which passed in 1994—I am pleased Congress is on the path to take meaningful action to address gun violence for the first time in nearly 30 years. The bill is real progress. It will save lives. It is my intention to make sure the Senate passes this bill before the end of the week.

Last night, the process to quickly pass gun safety legislation formally

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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